



Sharing Information
Enhancing Preparedness
Strengthening Homeland Security

LLIS.gov Resources for Animals in Disasters


A TOOL FOR ENHANCING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS

LLIS.gov at a Glance

- Online since April 19, 2004
- Over 50,000 registered members
- Over 14,000 documents, including more than 1,700 state and local plans, 700 after-action reports, and 900 original content documents
- Secure message boards and collaboration tools
- Targeted information on current homeland security topics

RELATED TERMS

- Disabilities and Special Needs
- Emergency Preparedness
- PETS ACT



Louisiana State University

Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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PRACTICE NOTE

Pets and Service Animals: Arlington, Texas's "Save My Pet" Decals

PRACTICE DESCRIPTION

In 2005, Hurricane service animals, their companions, and service animals were not covered by Congress passed legislation. Texas Governor Rick Perry's Executive Order 2005-10 required animal managers to include animals in their disaster plans, which in turn reduces noise levels in the shelter and may mitigate aggressive behavior.

RELATED TERMS

- Hurricane Katrina
- Louisiana State University

Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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LESSON LEARNED

Emergency Animal Sheltering: Scheduling Daily Lights-Off Time Period(s)

SUMMARY

Emergency animal managers should establish a daily operations schedule that provides lights-off times for the animals. Routine quiet, dark times reduce the animals' stress levels, which in turn reduces noise levels in the shelter and may mitigate aggressive behavior.

DESCRIPTION

In late August 2005, Hurricane Katrina prompted the evacuation of more than a million people from the New Orleans metropolitan area. Many of the evacuees brought their pets with them, even though few crisis shelters did not accept pets because of health and safety concerns. The American Red Cross and other national disaster response organizations established an emergency shelter for owned animals at Louisiana State University's Parker Commons. The Commons sheltered over 1,200 animals at its peak capacity.

KEY POINTS

The sheltering facility initially kept the animals on a 24-hour cycle to facilitate animal intake. The continuous lighting and lighting prevented the shelter animals from getting sufficient rest, which may have increased their stress levels. Many animals exhibited aggressive behavior, and the shelter staff received numerous bites. In addition, continuous lighting exposed shelter workers to excessive noise levels with potential for long-term hearing loss.

CITATIONS

Arlington, Texas, Technology 2010

150 Emergency Animal Shelter Schedule

Time	Activity
6 a.m. - 8 a.m.	Turn lights on
8 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Water, feed, clean kennels, wash dogs, and meditate animals
9 a.m. - Noon	Turn lights off
Noon - 3 p.m.	Transfer pets out to incorporateurnal schedule
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Animal behavior forecasts calls, check in
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Turn lights on
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Clean water and meditate animals
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Light out, shelter closed
8 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Quiet time, no external lighting or medical personnel

ANIMALS IN DISASTERS ORIGINAL CONTENT

LLIS.gov provides extensive information related to animals in disasters. LLIS.gov researchers have produced original content on animals in disasters, including:

- Arlington County, Virginia’s Mobile Emergency Pet Shelter (Practice Note)
- Emergency Communications: Providing Mobile Command Posts for Animal Services Responders (Lesson Learned)
- Medical Care for Search Dogs (Lesson Learned)
- Pre-Scripting Animal Issues Messages (Lesson Learned)
- Purdue University’s Graduate Certificate Program in Veterinary Homeland Security (Good Story)
- Shelter Operations: Pet-Friendly Shelters (Best Practice)

ADDITIONAL CONTENT AVAILABLE ON *LLIS.GOV*

In addition to original documents, *LLIS.gov* houses plans, guidelines, best practices, and other documents specific to pets and service animals in disasters on its Mass Evacuation topic-specific page and its Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities and Special Needs topic-specific page. These additional documents include:

- [FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy: Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuating and Sheltering](#)
- [Miami-Dade \(FL\) Animal Services Hurricane Information](#)
- [Developing a Community Disaster Plan for Animals](#)
- [Earthquake Tips for Service Animals and Pet Owners](#)
- [Hillsborough County \(FL\) Pet-Friendly Shelter Admission/Discharge Form for Animal](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness for Laboratory Animals](#)
- [State \(MN\) Animal Emergency Operations Guidelines](#)
- [Animals in Public Evacuation Centers](#)

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LLIS.gov is a Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency program and is supported by the NxT. For more information, please contact the *LLIS.gov* Help Desk at 866.276.7001 or Feedback@llis.dhs.gov.